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21. ADDITIONAL LOCALITY RECORDS FOR TWO INDIAN TORTOISE SPECIES

Five species of tortoises have been reported from the Indian subcontinent. They are, 1. Indian starred tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*); 2. Travancore tortoise (*Indotestudo forstenii*); 3. Elongated tortoise (*I. elongata*); 4. Asian brown tortoise (*Manouria emys*) and 5. Afghan four-toed tortoise (*Testudo horsfieldii*). In the subcontinent, the Afghan four-toed tortoise is distributed only in Pakistan. Updated information on the distribution of the Indian tortoises is available in Das (1991). The present note gives specific locality record for the Elongated tortoise and Indian starred tortoise.

Elongated tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*)

The elongated tortoise is distributed in north and northeast India along the distribution of the sal (*Shorea robusta*) forest. The continued existence of this species in Simlipal Tiger Reserve, Orissa; Saranda Reserve Forest, Chaibassa in Bihar; Jalpaiguri forest and Buxa Tiger Reserve in West Bengal; Garo hills in Meghalaya and Corbett National Park in Uttar Pradesh has been reported (Frazier 1992). But nowhere in India, is the elongated tortoise common. It is listed as endangered in the Red Data Book of the IUCN (Groombridge 1982).

On May 20, 1990, a tortoise was photographed by one of us (SFWS) in Siggudi forest near Kotdwara in the corridor connecting Rajaji and Corbett National Parks. This was later identified as the elongated tortoise, *Indotestudo elongata*. The tortoise was found active on a dried stream bed intersecting the sal forest. The colour transparency is in the collection of WII-USFWS Turtle Project.

This species is reported to be present in Dehra Dun based on a specimen collected before 1970 in Phandowala near Dehra Dun (Frazier 1992). The present record confirms the continued survival of the elongated tortoise in the sal forests of Rajaji National Park. The Rajaji National Park is located at the Northwestern limit of this tortoise's distribution.

Indian starred tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*)

The Indian starred tortoise is widely distributed in semi arid states of India (Das 1991). Mudumalai wildlife sanctuary in Tamil Nadu was surveyed for tortoises during 23-27 December 1991. One complete shell (carapace length 6.5 cm, width 5.3 cm and plastron length 5.5 cm) in the tribal camp in Anaikatty, a plastron in the Irula tribal camp in Moyar and a portion of a plastron in the scrub jungle near Masinagudi was recorded. Subsequently, C.S. Silori has recorded six Indian starred tortoises from January to August 1992. All these sightings were in the scrub jungle near Masinagudi, Moyar and Vazhaithottam in Mudumalai wildlife sanctuary. One shell and three photographs have been deposited in the WII-USFWS Turtle Project collection.

In Tamil Nadu, this species has been reported from Mambakkam, Pudukottai and Ramanad (Das 1991). The present record in the Protected Area, i.e. Mudumalai wildlife sanctuary is an additional locality for the Indian starred tortoise. The highest elevation at which this species has been reported was 450 m at Erinpura, Jalor district in Rajasthan. The present records are at elevations between 850 and 950 m is a significant altitudinal extension in the distribution of the species.

In recent years, the Indian starred tortoise has

been reported in more localities in south-western India such as south east Kerala, Kalakad wildlife sanctuary, Tamil Nadu (Das 1991) and Chinnar wildlife sanctuary in Kerala (Jayson 1993). This indicate that the species probably occurs in many more localities along the rain shadow area of the Western Ghats.

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22. THE COMMON GARDEN LIZARD *CALOTES VERSICOLOR* (DAUDIN) FEEDING ON GERMINATING SEEDS OF *FERONIA LIMONIA* (LINN.) SWINGLE

Like other agamids the common garden lizard *Calotes versicolor* (Daudin) is primarily insectivorous but also feeds occasionally on small birds, nestlings, frogs and other small animals (Daniel 1983). There is one report of this lizard feeding on unripe, cultivated beans (Daniel and Shull 1964).

Recently, on 4 June 1993, while I was inspecting Narayani (I) Forest Nursery near foothills of the Narayani Forest block of Jhadol Forest Range in Udaipur district, I observed a *Calotes*

versicolor digging and feeding on swollen cotyledons of the germinating seeds of *Feronia limonia* in poly-bags. Only those seeds which had just thrown their radicals and whose plumules were about to emerge were taken. The seed coats of swollen seeds were left uneaten.

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23. FIRST RECORD OF *MICROHYLA RUBRA* (JERDON) (AMPHIBIA : ANURA) FROM MAHARASHTRA

Microhyla rubra (Jerdon) is a small anuran characterized by elliptical tongue, toothless jaws, stout habit and two shovel shaped metatarsal tubercles. Boulenger (1890) in his "*Fauna of*

British India" volume on Reptilia and Batrachia gave the distribution of this frog as Assam, Nellore, Madras Presidency and Ceylon. Inger and Dutta (1986) in their recent overview of the am-